

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

January 20, 2020

PRESENT:	Gary Daniels, Chairman	Mark Bender, Town Administrator
	Paul Dargie, Vice Chairman	Tina Philbrick, Recording Secretary
	Mike Putnam, Member	Rich Addonizio, Videographer
	Laura Dudziak, Member	
	Chris Labonte, Member	

1. CALL TO ORDER, BOARD OF SELECTMEN INTRODUCTIONS & PUBLIC SPEAKING

INSTRUCTIONS: Chairman Daniels called the public meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., introduced Board members and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Daniels indicated that those people in the audience who want to speak or add to the discussion should please use a microphone in order to be heard on the PEG Access live broadcast.

2. APPOINTMENTS: (Approximate times)

5:30 p.m. – There were no appointments for this meeting

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments at this time.

4. DECISIONS.

a) CONSENT CALENDAR. There were no consent items for this meeting.

b) OTHER DECISIONS. N/A

5. TOWN STATUS REPORT –

a) N/A

6. DISCUSSIONS:

a) 2020 Warrant articles

Chairman Daniels said the purpose of this meeting is to go through the rest of the articles that the Board hasn't addressed, primarily the petition warrant articles. There will also be a chance for the Board to change any of their votes on the other warrant articles. We will also make sure that minority and majority reports are assigned before leaving tonight.

WARRANT ARTICLE 5 – EXISTING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCH CENTER UPGRADE - \$1,180,000 BOND BY PETITION

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,180,000 for upgrades and renovations to the MACC Base Emergency Dispatch Center? Under this warrant article, Milford will pay only its fair share of the \$1,660,000 dollars required (71.2938%) in accordance with the current Inter-municipal Agreement for renovation and upgrades to the MACC Base infrastructure, and in accordance with the CTA study's budgetary estimate as an alternative to Warrant Article #4. In accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), this article further authorizes the Selectmen to issue and negotiate bonds or notes with a term not to exceed 15 years and to determine the rate of interest and other conditions in their judgement. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. Note: as this is for issuance of long-term debt, this vote under state law requires a 3/5 affirmative vote to pass. **The Board of Selectmen supports this article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this article (0-0). The article has no tax impact in 2020.**

Paul Bagley, Milford resident said he was the author of warrant article 5. He felt that there was an alternative that has been available since 2016. He feels that the \$2,400,000 from last year's warrant article 3 was the result of the high bid. The low bid coincides, to a degree, with the estimates offered in the most recent report from CTA which was \$1,660,000.

Paul used a quote for \$1,660,000 submitted by Beltronics in 2016 as the base figure for this article. He projected an increase which would have made that number increase by 3.75% which came out to \$1,722,250 which is the base figure for this warrant article. With MACC Base, doing those repairs is the fix for Milford PD. We pay 71% now and we will have to pay 100% if article 4 passes. Beltronics projected that their program was going to create, in the Town of Milford, a 99.5% effectiveness penetration throughout the entire town. We are only required to have 95%.

Beltronics revised their estimate in February 2019 to \$1,760,500 which is still lower than warrant article number 3 last year. The higher estimate from Two-Way Communications was used for the basis on last year's warrant article. Last year's warrant article was changed to \$85,000 to study both a Milford Communications Center and MACC Base. CTA specifically outlined how Milford PD's problems at MACC Base could be resolved for \$1,660,000 even though the fig-

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

ure wrongly included \$800,000 in operational cost. Warrant article 4 does not include operational cost, it's only for infrastructure.

During their study CTA requested a questionnaire from each of the departments, which included a comprehensive inventory of communications equipment including, when it was purchased and length of service and maintenance, as well as any problems/questions that came with it. He assumes that this is something on which they based their report, but it wasn't included in their study and it should have been. If people are complaining about problems in emergency communications then the first place you need to look is in the equipment.

Both towns of Wilton and Mont Vernon want to continue their relationship with MACC Base but they have no desire to become Milford's customers again. MACC Base was created because at one time, the Town of Milford ran communications and both Mont Vernon and Wilton were among its customers. He doesn't think that a Milford Communications Center itself will have customers. The raw numbers are what Milford voters are being asked to pay 100% of \$2,400,000 for a new communications infrastructure, it doesn't run the center, and it just builds it. If we go with warrant article 5, we only pay 71% of the \$1,660,000 which is \$1,180,000 and it will fix MACC Base and the Milford PD problem. It's outlined in the Beltronics estimate and in CTA's report.

Chairman Daniels recalls asking Jason, MACC Base Director, if the \$1,660,000 included all antennas and his response was no. Paul said according to the Beltronics report, it does. The CTA talked about the cost of maintenance on antenna sites and one thing they listed was \$13,000 per year for the Mont Vernon cellular site. There is no charge to public safety at that site. Chairman Daniels asked what budgets Paul has seen that he feel are "offsets". Paul said he was talking about the Milford PD projection on us for operations. Chairman Daniels said he thought those cost were based on a stand-alone, not regional. Paul said either way, you won't be able to offset it with any income.

Captain Frye, Milford Police Department said the amount of towers that Beltronics suggested was 9 which was a rough estimate. There was no official response because they said there wasn't enough information to bid on it, although Beltronics and 2-Way have been with us since the beginning trying to figure out what the best fix would be. The \$1,660,000 jumped to \$1,760,500 in January when Beltronics decided to give it another shot in a weeks' time. The \$1,660,000 is an incomplete number. He said it is supposed to fix Milford's problem but it also adds extra cost to the other towns because the amount of towers that they were going to try to get on or build. He doesn't have the previous estimate with him from Beltronics, he will have it for the Deliberative session. If the \$1,660,000 passes, MACC Base can't do anything with that money until 2021 because of the IMA. Paul said it will fix Milford's problem but we also need the other two towns to join up if it's going to be run through MACC Base. That has been the problem all along; if the equipment that we have currently starts to fail we will be paying 71% of equipment to be in other towns as well.

Captain Frye said the previous Beltronics estimate needs to be looked at because they are going off one vendor sole sourcing this out, with no RFP or consultant's report. Originally Beltronics didn't provide a bid due to "lack of information" and now they say there is plenty of information. The Board, Budget Advisory Committee and the public wanted a study done, it's now complete and unfortunately, it didn't save MACC Base. How many more studies are we going to do? Maybe we will find a study one year that has us go with MACC Base and dump a lot of money into it. We have to remember that Milford is only 71% and everything that goes along with that, the \$529,000 yearly, and we only own 71% of it. Both the \$1,660,000 and \$2,400,000 will also have interest associated with them but with the \$2,400,000 at least we own it. The \$1,660,000 saves MACC Base but they also need the other two towns to save MACC Base as well.

Jason Johnson, Director of MACC Base said the report that Mr. Bagely has is 5 towers that are already standing, Captain Frye mentioned an old Beltronics report of 9 towers. Jason said in the event you do a fix that involves updating MACC Base, the ownership of the equipment isn't an issue. The other towns want to continue the IMA and they discussed it with Milford which resulted in a two year extension and not changing the IMA. The Town of Milford refused to sign the new suggested IMA.

Captain Frye, said 4 of the 5 antennas Jason just mentioned are not in Milford. Jason said the cost of leasing an antenna on Dram Hill is included in the Beltronics estimate. Captain Frye said that would be only if we decide to go with MACC Base. If you are going to do it right, the \$1,660,000 cost would most likely be close to \$4,000,000 to help MACC Base rebuild and save as a regional system. This number comes from two different consultants, one that walked away from our first meeting saying that Milford doesn't have enough money to fix it, and neither does MACC Base unless everyone works with it and then it would be around \$6,000,000. That number was in line with CTA's number of \$4,900,800 for a regional dispatch center to fix MACC Base.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

Selectman Labonte said he gets confused on some of the proposals. There are different scenarios that were brought up last year and this year, some include radios and some don't. He said that Captain Frye had three radios that were analog and couldn't be re-programed to the new system. Captain Frye said they were car radios that are almost 20 years old. Selectman Labonte wanted to know if we have to change the radios or not? He knows you always will need a percentage of replacing and updating equipment but do we need to replace every radio in town or not.

Captain Frye said he can't speak to the fire department, but the PD is looking at three radios that need upgrading. Selectman Labonte asked if CTA's proposal includes new radios or not. Captain Frye said we've discussed this before. The \$2,400,000 is worst case scenario, CTA asked us what equipment did we have and then they built in an amount to replace it. Selectman Labonte said if we don't have to buy radios or put a tower up, what are we getting, and what aren't we getting. He couldn't figure that out from reading the CTA report. He is also confused about technology. Even if warrant article 5 passes, can CTA do an RFP on it or are they just locked to warrant article 4.

Captain Frye said we could have an itemized list of what the equipment includes. Chairman Daniels said his understanding with the \$2,400,000 is that we would not be throwing out equipment that we can use; we would use the stuff that was compatible. Selectman Labonte said if we can do it cheaper and solve the problem, haven't we solved what we've been looking for.

Chairman Daniels said we have some unknowns out there. He asked Paul if he knew how much it would cost Wilton to fix their problem as they appear to have the biggest coverage problem. Paul said no, but Lyndeborough has a bigger coverage problem. Chairman Daniels said Lyndeborough isn't a member. Chairman Daniels said if we are going to be part of a partnership, we will be paying 71% to fix Wilton's problem. Mont Vernon doesn't seem to have a problem and we know what Milford's problem is.

Paul said his recollection of the study that was done by Belltronics is that this will bring it up to both AFCO and NFPA standards of a minimum of 95% effectiveness in all three of the member towns. That was their goal when they did the estimate. The real beneficiary of this is the Town of Milford with 99.5% coverage.

Rodny Richey, Milford resident said warrant article 5 has Milford bonding \$1,200,000 out of a total of \$1,660,000, how would we get to full amount of \$1,660,000 and how would it be managed and how would the development and restructuring be accomplished. Paul said both Mont Vernon and Wilton have made it clear to the Milford Board that they wish to continue with MACC Base and will do a similar program as far as bonding is concerned. On the off chance that they don't, based on the CTA study, all that will really be required is \$860,000 to upgrade MACC Base. Of the \$1,660,000, \$800,000 is actually for operations. There is some confusion even in what he's proposing. Warrant article 4 is a worse-case scenario.

Captain Frye repeated that the \$1,660,000 doesn't include any antennas or infrastructure on the antennas. Paul said it does include \$800,000 for operations. Captain Frye said correct, to upgrade upstairs. Paul said there isn't any operational cost in the estimate from Beltronics. Captain Frye said it's to replace all the equipment and modernize it, which doesn't help our antenna situation, which is where are problems are.

Pete Basiliere asked if Paul has spoken to the other towns to see what they would be doing to pick up their balance of warrant article 5. Paul said no. Something like that would be more appropriate from the Chairman of the Board from Milford, not from him. Pete said it's also appropriate for the petitioner because the warrant article is asking the community to authorize the Select Board to bond \$1,200,000 with the idea that these other two communities which you haven't talked with, are also going to raise their part of the \$1,660,000. Paul said they have said they will pay their proportional cost of the additional 29%. Pete said as a tax payer, he would have felt more comfortable if this petition article was being replicated on the other two community's warrants. It's done in community school districts. All three towns should put the same language on their warrant articles if it pertains to the same thing. He's concerned that because we don't know for a fact that the other two towns are willing to and are going to be able to come up with the bonding authority for their shares, it would put this off until 2021 even though bonding authority may be granted for Milford. Paul said he would offer their intent because the IMA was signed by both Wilton and Mont Vernon and was not signed by Milford. Pete repeated that we will have to wait until 2021 before we know if the other two towns are on board.

Captain Frye asked if there is any way before February 1st that Beltronics can put together a complete package. Paul said he hasn't spoken to them; he's working off the information he received from the Town of Milford. Captain Frye said the information was from 2018 and those figures could possibly be wrong. He asked if the estimate was taken off of a scale. Paul said they were taken off the report that was given by CTA to the Town of Milford. Captain Frye said that Paul is saying that it's Beltronics number as well. Paul said yes and it's predicated on the number he had at that time based on inflation. Since then he has discovered that they had elevated it in February 2019 to \$1,760,500. Paul

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

said he could verify that number. Captain Frye said we would have to know that it's also a complete fix. Paul said it is a complete fix. Captain Frye said there was never an RFP; it's just an estimate which is a big difference and he thinks that the numbers are going to be wrong in the warrant article. Paul said the estimate of \$2,400,000 is wrong because that was predicated upon an estimate as well. Captain Frye said we have an estimate with several documentations that was put together with a complete study and best fix. Beltronics number of \$1,760,500 was put together in a week and all they did was upgrade what they had a year ago, those figures don't stand alone like they do with CTA's.

Chairman Daniels said that Paul mentioned Mont Vernon and Wilton's intent to stay together using the latest proposal that came from an IMA that Milford would not sign. Their updated IMA wasn't a good deal for Milford. We pay 71% of the cost and they wanted to take away voting rights that we currently have as well as some other things in the IMA. For example, something had to be done on January 1st, no one works on January 1st. The document was not ready. We did go through two rounds of discussions on IMA and took notes. That is why we didn't sign that document. Paul said, using Captain Frye's own language from last year's deliberative session, yes we are paying 71% but we are using 95% of the services, which is hardly fair either. Chairman Daniels said that isn't what the IMA is built on. That was brought up but there was also a suggestion by Selectman Dargie that if we have 95% of the use then maybe we should have 95% of the vote. There is a lot of room for discussion. He didn't see the proposal that was put through by 29% of the voters as a done deal and that Milford is to blame for just not signing it. Paul said he isn't laying any blame on Milford, he's stating that it's evidence of intent on the part of those two towns.

Selectman Putnam said the IMA was a rough draft which was handed to the Board for their editing. This Board took it like it was already signed. They didn't give him any information to take back to the Board of Governors. Don't make it sound like it was written in concrete. Chairman Daniels said according to comments from the other towns, it sounded like it was. When he was walking out of the building, someone from one of the other towns said that Milford was putting everyone in jeopardy, their health and safety because we did not sign that agreement. Paul agrees with Chairman Daniels that that comment was over the top and unnecessary. The other town's intent is clear. Chairman Daniels said a lot comes down to the cost. As much as he's tried to get the other towns to do an analysis on how much it's going to cost them to fix their problems, we still have one town that hasn't done the homework like Milford has. They are sitting back waiting to see what Milford is going to do. He would hope that a partnership would work so that we can make a judgement based upon what it would cost us to fix 71% of someone else's problem. Paul said he would be more than happy to approach both those Boards but he didn't feel it was his authority to do that.

Rodny Richey said if the other two towns signed the IMA, it must not have been a draft and if they were expecting us to do so, it must not have been a draft. If this warrant article 5 should pass is Milford obligated to raise \$1,180,000 to do communication upgrades to the current installed system. He thinks it would be helpful to have this information at Deliberative Session.

Paul Calabria, Finance Director said the town has the authority to not go forward and bond something that the people have approved at town meeting. The official determination should come from Attorney Drescher.

Rodny asked what would happen if they both passed? Paul said if the Board does have the authority to defer bonding for a year that would in fact coincide with getting the other two towns to pay their share.

Selectman Labonte said other than the joint meetings that we had with the other Towns his impression was that they were willing to sit and talk. If article 4 and article 5 fail, what are we going to do? He doesn't think we've had any negotiations with MACC Base this year. Chairman Daniels said the controlling authority of MACC Base is the Board of Governors. Selectman Labonte asked how come this Board hasn't brought up the concept of talking to our representative, which is a 50% vote at the Board of Governors, to try and establish something. It's all about Milford wanting control, why are we set on that. We were on our own and we went regional. Going back to owning our own isn't getting us any farther ahead. Chairman Daniels said he isn't about the control; he's about fixing the problem.

Paul said the MACC Base Board of Governors maintains operational control of MACC Base. As far as the IMA is concerned, they are not signatures to that, this Board and the other two towns are.

Jason Johnson spoke in regards to Mr. Richey's question about the draft IMA; he asked Selectman Putnam to clarify that the draft he was talking about was when the three towns started talking about the IMA, not the document that walked in here in December 2018. The Board of Governors spent lots of time trying to come up with a good IMA and you spent minimal time with your Board. Selectman Putnam said correct, he didn't received anything from this Board they just read this and said they can't do this.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

Selectman Labonte said we need to solve the problem. If it comes down to officer safety, it's something we need to deal with. Since he's been on this Board, all the times they've talked about this, it's never gone back to MACC Base to say, you are our current provider, what can be done. If officer safety is the issue, then why are we not dealing with it? There are a lot of people who don't have the money for a \$2,400,000 fix in the Town of Milford.

Chairman Daniels said this issue more than any other one has been at the forefront of what we have discussed this year, he takes issue with Selectmen Labonte saying that we haven't really done anything. We took the direction of the electorate and used their \$85,000 to get a study done. This took half the year by the time we got the RFQ and selection done. It was all in the name of safety. Selectman Labonte doesn't disagree but he doesn't understand why things couldn't be worked out in parallel, you have to have options. It's been a one track thing and the Milford Police Department wants their own dispatch.

Chairman Daniels said it wasn't a one track thing. If you recall, we met multiple times with the other Boards, that is a totally different track. That was a track of MACC Base versus, Selectman Labonte interrupted and said the answer has always been "we are going to wait and see what Milford wants to do". Chairman Daniels said that was the other towns doing that. It's difficult for us to sit here and try to make a decision of what the system is going to cost us when each element of it isn't doing their due diligence to find out what their own cost is going to be. The \$85,000 was not to be used to study and tell Wilton how much it was going to cost them to fix their problem. Milford taxpayers put up that money and that is why we concentrated on fixing Milford's solution. This has been explained to the Chairs of the other towns. We were doing two tracks.

Mike Viola, Milford Chief of Police clarified that it isn't Milford Police wanting their own dispatch. The Milford Police Department wants what is best for the Town of Milford, and that is a dispatch that works for everyone, all emergency services. If it's housed at the Milford Police Department we will run it and it will be under a budget, but it will be the Towns dispatch not the Milford Police Departments dispatch. We've said all along, if you wanted it at the Fire Department, we could have put it there. The bottom line is, four years ago the other towns told us "fix your problem" that is what we are trying to do.

Selectman Dargie said the CTA report looked at staying with MACC Base as an option, and after running the numbers, it was a poor solution. A stand-alone Milford only was the preferred solution. Selectman Labonte said it's all in how you read the report. The report said it interviewed every department and it didn't interview Mont Vernon Fire or Milford Water Utilities. Captain Frye said Mont Vernon Fire was asked three times to give input and they chose not to. Selectman Labonte said it didn't say in the report that Mont Vernon Fire or Milford Water Utilities gave no input.

Captain Frye said he doesn't know why Mont Vernon Fire didn't want to participate and Milford Water Utilities doesn't use the system nor do they want or need anything. Selectman Labonte repeated that the report didn't say that there was no input from those entities. Selectman Dargie said they had an elaborate matrix of everything included and he repeated, the Milford stand-alone solution was the best.

Paul said no one in this community is more concerned about officer safety than he is. He's been there. When you have a radio that is breaking up and you can't communicate, it makes it harder, riskier and much more dangerous. He doesn't want that and he feels that warrant 5 is a solution to that problem.

A motion was made by Selectman Dargie to not support warrant article 5. Seconded by Selectman Dudziak. The motion passed 3/2 with Selectman's Daniels, Dargie and Dudziak opposed to supporting and Selectman Labonte and Putnam in support.

WARRANT ARTICLE 37 - NASHUA STREET PEDESTRIAN SAFETY and SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - \$750,500 (State pays \$600,400; Town pays \$150,100), BY PETITION

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$750,500 with \$150,100 to be raised by general taxation and \$600,400 from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program for the engineering, potential right-of-way acquisition, and construction of approximately 3,500 linear feet of new five-foot (5') wide sidewalk, to include, but not limited to, vertical granite curbing, associated drainage improvements, crosswalk markings, and repaving, along the southerly and northerly sides of Nashua Street beginning from 486 Nashua Street (Near Cahill Place, Map 32, Lot 4-C) to 586 Nashua Street (Near Lorden Plaza, Map 44, Lot 6) and to the existing sidewalk network at the corner of Capron Road and Nashua Street? This reimbursement program provides an 80% federal funding/20% local matching funds opportunity. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **Board of Selectmen supports this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (7-0-2). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$9.38 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

Selectman Dargie said he's strongly in favor of this warrant article. We will get \$1,500,000 of funding for about \$300,000 between warrant article 37 and 38. If we don't approve these projects this year, the 80% funding goes away.

Selectman Dargie made a motion to support Warrant article 37. Seconded by Selectman Dudziak. Chairman Daniels said he would be voting against article 37 and 38 because something should get through with emergency communications. While this is an 80/20 match and we are talking about asking people for another \$300,000 and this is competing with emergency communications. Selectman Putnam said he would also vote against these two warrant articles. We haven't had sidewalks down there ever and there hasn't been a problem. This is still going to go onto the tax roll. We have enough outstanding debt that we are paying off, the Fire station, Police Station etc. Contrary to popular belief, state funds come along all the time.

Administrator Bender said the Police Station debt expires in 2024. Selectman Dargie said the matching funds are rare and we should grab it when we can. We've been trying to get these matching funds for about a decade.

Rodny Richey agrees with Selectman Dargie we don't get 80/20's very often. The Board voted in favor of taking a 50/50 to dredge Osgood Pond and he feels we would have a lot more use with these sidewalks than with Osgood Pond. He doesn't think it's been used to any larger extent than it was prior to dredging. If we are concerned about climate change, sidewalks make a difference in that regards. It will keep the price of fuel and emissions down. Selectman Putnam said it will increase the cost to DPW for maintenance and repair. Rodney stated then we shouldn't put in more roads because we have to maintain them. Selectman Putnam said that is a possibility.

The motion failed 2/3 with Selectman Daniels, Putnam and Labonte opposed and Selectman Dargie and Dudziak in support.

Chairman Daniels made a motion to oppose Warrant article 37. Seconded by Selectman Putnam. The motion passed 3/2 with Selectman's Daniels, Putnam and Labonte opposed to supporting and Selectman Dargie and Dudziak in support.

WARRANT ARTICLE 38- OSGOOD ROAD, MELENDY ROAD, AND ARMORY ROAD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SIDEWALK AND BICYCLE LANE PROJECT - \$763,000 (State pays \$610,400; Town pays \$152,600), BY PETITION

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$763,000, with \$152,600 to be raised by general taxation and \$610,400 from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program) for the engineering of, potential right-of-way acquisition of, and construction of approximately 4,000 linear feet a new five-foot (5') wide sidewalk with vertical granite curbing, a dedicated striped bicycle lane, and pedestrian walkway, to include, but not limited to associated drainage improvements, crosswalk markings, and repaving, along Osgood Road, Mason Road, Melendy Road, and Armory Road. The pedestrian improvement project will begin at intersection of West Street and Osgood Road and continue southwest along Osgood Road past Adams Field, Osgood Pond, and Mason Road to the intersection of Osgood Road, Melendy Road and Armory Road. The pedestrian improvements will continue eastward along Armory Road to intersection with the Granite Town Rail-Trail, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes therefore of not more than \$763,000 in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33)? This reimbursement program provides an 80% federal funding/20% local matching funds opportunity. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **Board of Selectmen supports this Article (0-0) The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (7-0-2). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$9.53 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

Chairman Daniels made a motion to oppose article 38. Seconded by Selectman Putnam. Chairman Daniels said with this warrant article you get more use out of the school and Adams field, but the lane by the bridge is wide enough for another lane of traffic and it's possible for people to stay far off the road. Adding in a bicycle lane will interfere with traffic and parking for the events held at the field. The plan was to go up Melendy road to the rail trail and he has rarely seen people walking on that road over the last decade.

Selectman Labonte agrees with Chairman Daniels. He's not opposed to the sidewalks on Osgood Road but he has a problem with the length going down Armory Road. If you put a sidewalk on Osgood Road, it will restrict parking at Adams Field.

Chris Costantino, Milford resident, said the high school and middle school students often run from the middle school to the rail trail for training during the Fall and Spring. More people would go that way if it were safer. Chairman Daniels asked if it was a shorter distance to go down Union Street and get onto the trail there. Chris said no, because they warm

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

up at Adams Field first. She has seen many people walking from Rite Aid to get to the Mobile Home Park on Melendy Road.

The motion passed 3/2 with Selectman's Daniels, Putnam and Labonte opposed to supporting and Selectman Dargie and Dudziak in support.

WARRANT ARTICLE 39 - NEW MUNICIPAL AND TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PAID BY AN ADDITIONAL AUTO REGISTRATION FEE, BY PETITION- \$0

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA 261:153 (VI) to levy an additional motor vehicle registration fee in the amount of five dollars (\$5.00) per registration to be used to support a municipal and transportation improvement fund, and to further provide that with the adoption of this article the town shall create a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA Chapter 35 to receive these funds, and further that the Capital Reserve Fund shall be known as the Municipal and Transportation Capital Reserve Fund, said reserve fund to be used to fund, wholly or in part, improvements in the local or regional transportation system including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and inter-modal facilities, electric vehicle charging stations, and for operating and capital costs of public transportation only, and to further name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend this Capital Reserve Fund. The funds may be used for engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs of transportation facilities, including electric vehicle charging stations, and for operating and capital costs of public transportation only. The funds may be used as matching funds for state or federal funds allocated for local or regional transportation improvements. Such funds shall not be used to offset any other non-transportation appropriations made by the municipality. This additional motor vehicle registration fee shall be collected starting with motor vehicle registration permits obtained on or after May 1, 2020. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (0-0). This Article has no tax impact.**

Selectman Dargie said this is the same as before. It's to add a \$5 fee for vehicle registrations. This would be used for transportation related items and be managed by the Selectmen. The money would go into a capital reserve fund and doesn't have to be used each year. Thirty seven towns in New Hampshire use this process. This has been on the books for 20 years as a legal process. It's a good way to lower property taxes. This will raise approximately \$90,000 per year in total revenue, which is roughly \$5 per \$100, 000 in assessed valuation if used for property tax relief.

Selectman Putnam said if you had a \$200,000 house it will save you \$10, but if you own four vehicles it's going to cost you \$20. Selectman Dargie said correct. Selectman Putnam said you are taking the burden off the landlords. Every apartment in town will get that tax relief also. Those people in the apartments are using the roads more than single families. He won't support this and will do everything in his power to see that it doesn't pass. Selectman Labonte said roughly 15% of the state does this.

Mark Parenti, Milford resident said in reality, it goes up on one side and maybe it goes down on the tax side assuming the Board decides to not put forward a warrant articles for those things and just pay them out of this fund. We need to make this clear, maybe you will save \$10 and maybe it will cost you \$30. Selectman Dargie said the Board could just let it accumulate which is another way of saving money. Eventually it gets spent. Mark said it's an additional sum on top of property tax, it only offsets if you use that money instead of raising it. In the end if nothing changes, it's a tax increase based on how many cars you have.

Chairman Daniels made a motion to oppose article 39. Seconded by Selectman Putnam. Chairman Daniels sees it as another tax. Selectman Dargie mentioned that he would like to fund the Blue Bus with these funds and that is currently being paid for by the community. This article narrows it down and puts it on a smaller population to pay for it. There are a lot of ifs on what the Board could decide to choose. Chairman Daniels said he's concerned about business fleets like JP Pest Control who has 50 to 70 vehicles that they register each year. Companies like that may see it as more viable to go next door to a neighboring town because of the extra cost.

The motion passed 4/1 Selectman's Daniels, Putnam, Dudziak and Labonte opposed to supporting and Selectman Dargie in support.

WARRANT ARTICLE 40 – NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTION TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE POLLUTION, BY PETITION- \$0

We the town of Milford hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the cost and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire's economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (0-0). This Article has no tax impact.**

Selectman Dargie said articles 40 and 41 are not ones that he promotes. It's a 'sense of a meeting' kind of vote and has no actual financial implication. It's basically an article to send a message to the state and federal representatives to take action on Climate Pollution. It's out there to see how people feel about it. It works towards carbon pricing which is the most effective way lowering the use of carbon. He supports the article but it doesn't really have the effect of anything.

Selectman Putnam said it will have a big impact on the people. It will drive the price of gasoline up so people won't be able to afford it. Selectman Dargie said climate change is a problem and needs to be addressed. We need to work to minimize the problem.

Selectman Dudziak said something similar was put on ballot on 2017 which passed in several towns and congress didn't do anything about it. Putting it on the ballot alone won't do anything, but it might encourage the state to act on it. It's important. Chairman Daniels asked if Selectman Dudziak had any figures on this from 2017 until now. Selectman Dudziak said no, but she would be happy to get them for him. Paul Bagley asked how many petitioners signed this. Chairman Daniels said you have to have at least 25 registered voters.

Chairman Daniels made a motion to oppose article 40. Seconded by Selectman Putnam. Chairman Daniels said that Selectman Putnam brought up some of the reasons why Chairman Daniels would not support it. It looks you're giving permission to write a blank check and you don't know how it's going to be used. There are actually successful things already going on and we are doing well in the climate control in New Hampshire. The legislator can reason out what it best for the state. Selectman Putnam said it will impact fossil heating as a whole. Home heating oil, propane, and natural gas will all fall under that category.

The motion passed 3/2 with Selectman's Daniels, Putnam and Labonte opposed to supporting and Selectman Dargie and Dudziak in support.

WARRANT ARTICLE 41 – NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTION FOR FAIR REDISTRICTING, BY PETITION - \$0

To see if the town will urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, will do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. That in order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular political parties or candidates. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (0-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (0-0). This Article has no tax impact.**

Selectman Dargie said in 2019 the house and the Senate passed a bill to create a redistricting commission which would be non-partisan, it was vetoed by the Governor. There will be a similar proposal this year. The actual vote was close to overturning the Governor's veto. Ten years ago the Republicans were in charge and did all the redistricting and worked hard to make sure the districts favored Republican outcomes. It would be better to have an independent group do the redistricting so it doesn't support Democrats or Republicans. He's in favor of not having gerrymandering in terms of redistricting.

Chairman Daniels said in 2011 a Republican led the bill on redistricting, when he setup the districts he set it up where he was in a district and did not get re-elected. It isn't an easy process to go through but he would like to point out that when people go in, they choose a Republican or a Democrat ballot. He doesn't know if there really such a thing as an Independent. This bill would give the redistricting to non-elected people to do, and if you are truly independent you are probably not someone who goes in to vote. He questions if you really want them to set the boundaries.

Paul Bagley said he agrees with Selectman Dargie that it did take place with Republicans who controlled the legislature at the time. Currently the Democratic Party controls the legislature and if there is gerrymandering going on now, whoever is in control is going to control it. Chairman Daniels read one of Governor Sununu statements in his veto message,

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

“while I do not question the sincerity of the legislators who support HB 706, one partisan out of state organizations pushing for this legislation states that its mission is to “favorably position Democrats redistricting process”.

Claire Holston, Milford resident said it’s a game but at the end of the day, people have a right to vote and people shouldn’t be playing around. Support a bill or article that takes the politics out of it and makes it an even playing field for everyone. She has the right to vote and doesn’t think that people have the right to play with her vote. Both Democrats and Republicans are doing it. It would be nice if people would just step up and do the right thing, it’s a no brainer.

Chairman Daniels pointed out that this is a non-binding vote. You get the chance to vote and you vote your elected representatives in by the constitution and those are the legislators that are supposed to determine the boundaries every ten years.

Selectman Dargie said the way the proposal is set-up; the process is consistent with the constitutional requirements. The commission will generate their recommendations then it goes back to the legislator to vote on it. It is consistent.

Chairman Daniels said the Board could change their vote again on January 27th as well as the Deliberative Session. Tina Philbrick, recording secretary, reminded the Board that these warrant articles have to be posted in three public places on January 27th. The votes need to be taken tonight or they will not be in compliance. They can be re-voted on at the Deliberative Session.

Selectman Putnam made a motion to oppose article 41. Seconded by Chairman Daniels. The motion passed 3/2 with Selectman’s Daniels, Putnam and Labonte opposed to supporting and Selectman Dargie and Dudziak in support.

Administrator Bender said in situations where the Board is opposed to an article, the wording will be “The Board of Selectmen does not support this article, in this case, 2/3.

At this time Chairman Daniels asked the Board if there were any warrant articles they wished to change their vote on?

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWN ROADS - \$400,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 to reconstruct roads as detailed using Cartograph Data by the Department of Public Works. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$24.71 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

Chairman Daniels changed his vote on warrant article. He isn’t denying that this needs to be taken care of, but he’s concerned that taxpayers only have so much and he would like something to be done to communications. Selectman Labonte was on the edge. We need repairs on roads. **This vote is now 4/1 with Chairman Daniels opposed.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - AMBULANCE AND EQUIPMENT LEASE-PURCHASE - \$45,180 (Annual Lease Payment \$45,180: \$75,000 Paid From Capital Reserves; Total Purchase Price \$296,400)

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement, subject to a fiscal funding clause, which will protect the Town in the event of non-appropriation, for the purpose of lease-purchasing one ambulance with the appropriate equipment for Ambulance Department operation to replace the current 2001 Life-Line ambulance and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,180 for the first year’s payment for this purpose. The total purchase price of this vehicle is \$296,400. Approval of this warrant article will further authorized the expenditure of \$75,000 from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund to arrive at the net/lease/purchase amount of \$221,400. If this article passes, future years’ payments will be included in the operating budget and the 2001 ambulance will be sold. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$2.79 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

Selectman Labonte said he wanted to change his vote on this warrant article. We just put over \$4,000 into the backup ambulance. Selectman Putnam said we lost the transmission today in the ambulance that was just re-built. Selectman Labonte change his mind and will keep his vote the same. **This vote continues to be 5/0.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - AMBULANCE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? Expenditures from this fund will require a vote at town meeting. The \$25,000 adds to the Ambulance Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

Selectman Labonte changed his vote to no on this warrant article. **This vote is now 4/1 with Selectman Labonte opposed.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 25 - ANNUAL LABOR DAY PARADE SUPPORT - \$10,000

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of funding bands, musicians and other allied expenses directly attributed to the annual Labor Day Parade? This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32. The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.62 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

Chairman Daniels changed his vote to yes. **This vote is now 5/0.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 30 - VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT AND ALL VETERAN'S TAX CREDIT

Shall the town, pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, vote to increase the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:28) and the All Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:38-b) from \$300 to \$400. *RSA 72:28 I. The standard veterans' tax credit shall be \$50. II. The optional veterans' tax credit, upon adoption by a city or town pursuant to RSA 72:27-a, shall be an amount from \$51 up to \$750. The optional veterans' tax credit shall replace the standard veterans' tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto.* *RSA 72:28-b II. The credit granted under this section shall be the same as the amount of the standard or optional veterans' tax credit in effect in the town or city under RSA 72:28.* **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (4-0-1). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (8-0-1). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$3.33 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

Chairman Daniels abstained from this vote because as a veteran he would benefit. He will write an abstention report.

WARRANT ARTICLE 36 – SPORTS BETTING - \$0

Shall the town allow the operation of sports book retail locations within the Town of Milford? The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (4-0-1). The Budget Advisory Committee does not support this Article (4-5). This Article has no tax impact.

Selectman Labonte changed his vote to yes. **This vote is now 5/0.**

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - BRIDGE REPAIR AND/OR REPLACEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$75,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to be placed in the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund? This fund was identified in the May 2014 Hoyle, Tanner Associates, Inc. study that identified needed rehabilitation for Town bridges. Expenditures from this fund would be authorized by the Board of Selectmen. The \$75,000 adds to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2014. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (4-1). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (6-3). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$4.63 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000.**

Administrator Bender said that he and the Public Works Director met with DOT last week regarding Mason Road over Great Brook, our next big bridge replacement project. That bridge was originally scheduled for the 2024; the state has delayed it to 2028. This would be an opportunity to lower this warrant article as we have a good balance in that account. The bridge is an E2 posting but it recently went to a rating of 4 which is the high end of the red list.

Selectman Labonte clarified that in the Town Administrators presentation, we were good with what is in the Bridge fund for the next three years. Administrator Bender said if you want to wait until Deliberative session, he will have a power point slides so everyone can see what we have available and our plan going forward. Selectman Dargie is not in favor of lowering this, you could get a very high bill out of the blue if a bridge fails. Having a large amount in that account is a good thing. Chairman Daniels would also like to keep it the way it is.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - KEYES PARK EXPANSION COMMITTEE PROJECT CAPITAL RESERVE - \$25,000

Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve Fund? The purpose of this fund is for the design, development and construction of improvements to Keyes Memorial Park, as outlined in the Keyes Memorial Park Expansion Committee Report, (December 20, 2016 and as amended). The Board of Selectmen has authority to expend from this fund. The \$25,000 adds to the Keyes Park Expansion Committee Project Capital Reserve approved by voters in 2017. **The Board of Selectmen supports this Article (5-0). The Budget Advisory Committee supports this Article (9-0). This Article has an estimated tax impact of \$1.54 on an assessed valuation of \$100,000**

Chairman Daniels and Selectman Labonte changed their votes on warrant article 19. The vote is now 3/2 with Chairman Daniels and Selectman Labonte opposed.

At this time the Board discussed writing some of the Majority and Minority reports.

Selectman Labonte will write the minority report on Warrant article #4
Selectman Labonte will write the minority report on Warrant article #5
Selectman Labonte will write the minority report on Warrant article #6
Selectman Dargie will write the majority report on Warrant article #10
Selectman Dudziak will write the majority report on Warrant articles #12
Selectman Labonte will write the minority report on Warrant article #18
Selectman Dudziak will write the majority report on Warrant articles #20
Selectman Putnam will write the majority report on Warrant articles #21
Selectman Dudziak will write the majority reports on Warrant articles #30, 31, 32, and 33
Selectman Dargie will write the majority report on Warrant article #36
Selectman Dargie will write the minority reports on Warrant articles #37, 38, 39, 40, and 41.
Chairman Daniels will write the minority reports on Warrant articles #37, 38, 39, 40, and 41.

Chairman Daniels will get the copy of the full majority and minority allocations to Tina. Selectman Dargie said after it's complete, if anything is missing, Chairman Daniels just assign someone to it.

Chairman Daniels said on Bond articles when it says that "this article has no tax impact", he feels for the sake of transparency we should expand upon that. We actually did this in 2015 on one of the warrant articles.

Kathy Parenti, Library Trustee Chair asked if the Board was going to talk about the library warrant tonight. Chairman Daniels said tonight's meeting was to discuss petition warrant articles that we didn't take a position on. We already took a position on the Library. Kathy asked if they already assigned majority and minority reports to the Library. Chairman Daniels said yes.

Pete Basiliere said the Board should check with Attorney Drescher about adding future tax impact language on the warrants. He isn't sure it's legal. Chairman Daniels said they have checked. Selectman Dargie recommends not putting in the length of the Bond at the end of the Warrant article. Peter said the article itself has the length of the Bond in the wording. Selectman Dargie said the phrase is not to exceed x number of years. Chairman Daniels said if there was a tax rate on there, they assume it's for the longest amount. Selectman Dargie mentioned that the library warrant article doesn't specify the length of the bond and it needs to be added in. Kathy Parentis said it will be 20 years. Administrator Bender will add it in.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

8. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS.

a. FROM PROJECTS, SPECIAL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES.

b. OTHER ITEMS (that are not on the agenda).

9. APPROVAL OF FINAL MINUTES. N/A

10. INFORMATION ITEMS REQUIRING NO DECISIONS.

11. NOTICES. Notices were read.

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – 01/20/2020

12. NON-PUBLIC SESSION.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Putnam moved to adjourn at **7:26.** Seconded by Selectman Dudziak. All were in favor. The motion passed 5/0.

Gary Daniels, Chairman

Laura Dudziak, Member

Paul Dargie, Vice Chairman

Chris Labonte, Member

Mike Putnam, Member